

What is claimed is:

1. A card-cage audio visual signal control system with help files embedded into each card comprising:

- 5 (1) a cage comprising a plurality of slots for installing cards disposed inside the cage;
 - (2) a plurality of cards removably installed into the slots, each card performing a specific function with respect to signals applied to the card;
 - (3) a central control means disposed inside the cage, the central control means controlling the cards;
 - 10 (4) a power means disposed inside the cage, the power means supplying power to the central control means and the cards;
 - (5) a plurality of interconnect means connecting the cards to the central control means;
 - (6) an interface means for connecting an external computer means to the
15 central control means and the cards;
- wherein each card comprises an embedded help file comprising a communication protocol for the card accessible by a method comprising:
- (a) connecting an external computer means comprising a display means to the interface means;
 - 20 (b) generating a help request signal programmed to identify the card and retrieve the help file;
 - (c) applying the help request signal to the card via the interface means;

(d) in response to the help request signal, transmitting the help file to the external computer means and displaying the help file on the display means.

2. A card-cage audio visual signal control system with help files embedded
5 into each card comprising:

(1) a cage comprising a plurality of slots for installing cards disposed inside the cage;

(2) a plurality of cards removably installed into the slots, each card performing a specific function with respect to signals applied to the card;

10 (3) a bus means disposed inside the cage, the bus means controlling the cards;

(4) a power means disposed inside the cage, the power means supplying power to the bus means and the cards;

(5) a plurality of interconnect means connecting the cards to the bus means;

15 (6) an interface means for connecting an external computer means to the bus means and the cards;

wherein each card comprises an embedded help file comprising a communication protocol for the card accessible by a method comprising:

(a) connecting an external computer means comprising a display means to
20 the interface means;

(b) generating a help request signal programmed to identify the card and retrieve the help file;

(c) applying the help request signal to the card via the interface means;

(d) in response to the help request signal, transmitting the help file to the external computer means and displaying the help file on the display means.